



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

February 2, 2005

News Release

ICE DEPORTS LAST FOUR ILLEGAL ALIENS CONVICTED FOR SEX WITH 14-YEAR OLD MENTALLY DISABLED GIRL

Victim was prostituted by a relative; six other criminal aliens involved were previously deported

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers today deported the last four of 10 illegal aliens who were convicted of paying for sex with a mentally disabled 14-year-old Austin girl who was prostituted by a relative.

All 10 men were living in the United States illegally. ICE special agents assisted Austin Police Department with arresting eight of them in July for the crime.

“I hope this brings some closure to a sad chapter in the victim’s life,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Cangemi of the ICE office in Bloomington. “Criminal aliens who take advantage of the most vulnerable among us are at the top of our list for apprehension and removal.” Cangemi oversees the enforcement of immigration and customs laws for a five-state area that includes Minnesota.

These last four men were convicted Thursday and Monday in Mower County District Court of engaging in prostitution with a minor, sentenced to 18 months in prison, and turned over to ICE for removal. All four were also required to register as sex offenders.

The four men deported to Mexico today were Reymundo Ortiz-Garcia, 21; Antonio Rojas-Ortiz, 27; Felix Sandoval-Barrios, 30; and Luis Vasquez-Maldonado, 29. All had been illegally living and working in Austin under false identities, and had used fraudulent U.S. birth certificates and phony Social Security cards.

Five other men convicted of the same crime were removed to Mexico Jan. 12. They were Dionicio Gutierrez-Franco, 23; Miguel Angel Gutierrez-Franco, 19; Jaime Mendoza-Reyes, 29; Ricardo Sandoval-Maldonado, 32; and Catalino Silva-Mendoza, 27. The tenth man convicted of participating in the same prostitution, Jose Nieto-Herrera, 25, was deported to Mexico in October.

Today's removals are part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative designed to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents in Minnesota have arrested more than 130 alleged and convicted sexual predators to date, making it among the top ten states nationwide for apprehensions. Nationwide, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,900 sexual predators.

During fiscal year 2004, which ended Sept. 30, ICE removed 3,152 criminal aliens and status violators from a five-state area that includes Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. Of that number, 1,488 were classified as criminal aliens for having been convicted of crimes such as drug offenses, assault and battery, armed robbery, rape, fraud and others. The remaining 1,664 had committed administrative immigration law violations.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

NOTE: For JPEG digital image files of the men deported yesterday, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at Tim.Counts@dhs.gov.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.